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Maui News

MAUI PEOPLE READ THE MAUI NEWS BECAUSE IT GIVES THE NEWS OF MAUI COUNTY AS NO OTHER PAPER DOES. THIS IS THE REASON DISCERNING ADVERTISERS USE ITS COLUMNS.

NINETEENTH YEAR

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BIG FIRE AT LAHAINA CAUSES \$150,000 LOSS

Large Section Of Business Part Of Town Destroyed ---Loss Of Hose Connection Caused Delay Which Proved Most Costly---Strenuous Work Saved More Of Town From Burning---Insurance Carried \$36,000---Indication That Burglars Were Responsible

While there is no conclusive evidence as yet to prove the theory, there is strong reason to believe that the Lahaina fire was due directly or indirectly to burglars.

The fact that back door to the Sing Lung store, in which the fire originated, was found to be open when the first fire fighters arrived on the scene, first gave rise to this impression. Later, on Monday morning, Sheriff Clem Crowell, after a careful search of the ruins, found the padlock and hasp with which the door in question had been fastened, and both show unmistakable evidence of having been forced open.

The lock, which was probably lying on the ground, shows little effect of fire, but its bolt is bent far to one side and pulled from the socket as though done by a jimmy. One side of the hasp has also been jerked out of the metal base to which it was riveted in a manner that could probably not have occurred simply from the fire.

A thorough search in the ruins also failed to bring to light four watches which were in the store as well as some coin that was in a trunk when the place burned.

It is the theory of the police that robbers, in their search for loot, either dropped a match or cigarette which later started the blaze, or else deliberately set the place on fire with view of concealing their crime. Up to the present time, however, they have failed to connect anyone with the evidence that the fire was not of purely accidental origin.

By far the disastrous conflagration of Maui, was that which started about 11:30 o'clock last Saturday night in the business center of Lahaina, and before it was finally checked had destroyed more than 30 separate buildings and had caused a loss aggregating between \$125,000 and \$150,000.

The fire started in the fruit store of the Sing Lung Co., two doors from

the corner of Front and Church streets, on the mauka side, within a hour after the place had been closed for the night. It was first discovered by a mounted policeman, who gave the alarm by riding around the town blowing his whistle.

By the time fire fighters arrived on the scene the store was a mass of flames, and the heat was so great that no one could approach very near.

Fire hose from the court house was carried to the scene within a reasonable time, but a reducing coupling was missing it could not be attached to the fire hydrant. It developed that this coupling had been left at the scene of the fire which destroyed a cottage at the Lahaina hospital at the time of the big wing storm, several weeks ago. By the time it was found and brought to the scene the blaze had communicated to buildings on either side and the heat was so great that it was impossible to pass in front of them along the street.

A little later the block on the mauka side of the street took fire, and the volunteer workers were all but helpless.

Wind Spread Fire Fast

So rapid was the spread of the blaze, fanned as it was by a brisk wind, that in a little more than two hours it had practically burned itself out. It had swept the block clean from the corner occupied by the Yee Yip store, as far east as the lane, on the east side of which stands the Hop Wo store. Here the fire fighters did some effective work, and prevented the fire from continuing further down the street. The Hop Wo store, however, was badly scorched on the outside and the stock within badly damaged by water. This place was insured, and the adjusters have allowed \$934 as covering the loss.

Within this area were the big Len Wai Co. general store, the Lahaina

(Continued on Page Two.)

Puunene Postoffice Robber Admits Guilt

Simeon Kaiawaia Needed Money To Spend New Year's In Honolulu—Only Took What He Needed—Brother Died In Pen Recently

The mystery of the robbery of the Puunene postoffice, of Christmas eve, of some \$60 in cash has been solved by County Sheriff Clem Crowell. After some clever detective work, which finally led him to Honolulu, Crowell's chase came to an end last Sunday night with the full confession of the culprit.

The burglar proved to be Simeon Kaiawaia, aged 21, and employee of the Puunene plantation in capacity of brakeman, teamster, and general labor. He gained entrance to the postoffice by breaking the glass door with his elbow and then reaching through and throwing the bolt.

The peculiar feature of the burglary which puzzled the officers, was the fact that after finding a box with the \$60 in small change in it besides some stamps, the thief had forced open a desk drawer containing about \$1200 in currency and gold, and although this large sum of money was within plain sight, had left without touching it.

Traced By Trail Of Dimes

Sheriff Crowell being off the island at the time of the robbery, did not get to work on it until the following week. After eliminating a number of sus-

(Continued on Page Five.)

Judge McKay Wins By Upper Court Decision

In the case of Akatsuka vs. W. A. McKay for damages in sum of \$15,000 the supreme court on Tuesday rendered a decision was rendered in favor of the defendant, thus ending a case of considerable local interest.

McKay, was charged with having had the records of the Wailuku district court, of which he is magistrate, entered to show that Akatsuka had pleaded guilty to the theft of certain brass and copper in the spring of 1916, whereas it was alleged he had pleaded not guilty. On this allegation the case against Akatsuka was taken to the second circuit court and by that tribunal remanded for new trial. Judge McKay being disqualified, the case was tried before District Magistrate Guy Goodness, who discharged the prisoner. The action against McKay followed, Akatsuka being represented by Eugene Murphy as attorney.

A copy of the higher court's opinion has not yet been received here, but according to information from Honolulu it clears the local magistrate of making false records. McKay's case was handled by J. Lightfoot, as deputy attorney general of the territory.

Haiku Postoffice Is Robbed--\$45 Taken

The Haiku postoffice was robbed of about \$45, probably on Monday night of last week. The money was in a box in the office and constituted receipts from box rent. Postmaster W. I. Wells reports that the door of the office was apparently opened by some one having a key that fit the lock. The matter has been under investigation by the police but thus far no clew has been discovered. Postoffice Inspector Austin, of Honolulu, who is also on Maui this week has been looking into the case.

PLANTATION WORKER CAUGHT BETWEEN CARS AND KILLED

Marcellino Martinez, a Porto Rican laborer on the Puunene plantation, was crushed between two cane cars last Tuesday morning about 10:30 o'clock, near Camp 6, and so badly injured that he died the same afternoon at the Puunene hospital. The man had gone between the cars to remove a stick from the track, he stated after the accident. He is survived by a widow and two children.

The Aloha Lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias, will hold its semi-monthly this evening.

Chamber Re-Elects All Old Officers

Adopts Resolutions On Account Roosevelt's Death—No Action In Matter Of Representative In Washington

The annual meeting of the Maui chamber of commerce was held yesterday afternoon, with election of officers for the ensuing year. The old officers and trustees were all re-elected, with two exceptions, F. B. Cameron being named a trustee in place of Dr. W. D. Baldwin, and S. A. Baldwin being added filling a vacancy on the board.

The officers are—H. W. Rice, president; William Walsh, vice-president; C. D. Luffkin, treasurer; D. H. Case, secretary; trustees—H. A. Baldwin, D. T. Fleming, J. P. Foster, W. A. Baldwin, L. von Tempsey, F. B. Cameron, E. R. Beyins, H. B. Penhallow, R. A. Wadsworth, F. F. Baldwin, and S. A. Baldwin.

Resolutions Re Roosevelt

A committee consisting of H. B. Penhallow, Judge L. L. Burr, and Hugh Howell was appointed to draft resolutions of regret at the death of former President Theodore Roosevelt, same to be spread upon the minutes.

The secretary was instructed to write to the committee in Honolulu that has in hand the proposition for erecting a monument of some kind in memory of Hawaii's soldiers and sailors who gave their lives in the war, expressing the interest of the chamber, and asking to be kept in touch with the developments in the matter.

The matter of Maui's chamber helping financially to pay for Honolulu's representative in Washington, George McK McClellan, was brought up, but no action was taken.

Japanese Visitors Lost In Haleakala

Six Of Party Of Ten From Honolulu Spend Uncomfortable Night In Crater When Heavy Fog Settles—From Honolulu Y. M. C. A.

Six young Japanese, of the Nuuanu Y. M. C. A., Honolulu spent a trying 24 hours in the crater of Haleakala last week, and consider themselves fortunate to escape with no serious injury to any of their number. With four other members in their party the descended into the crater last Friday morning, where a dense fog overtook them and they were unable to find their way out.

Four of the crowd became separated from the others, and did manage to reach the rest house before night, but the others failed to do so. The four at the rest house fired a revolver and shouted in an endeavor to guide the wanderers, but, although the signals were heard, the fog and echoes caused such confusion that they were unable to gain any sense of the direction from whence they came.

Burned Camera Films For Heat

The six lost men finally climbed to the rim of the crater and camped for the night, suffering severely from the cold, they attempted to light a fire, but fuel was lacking and what they could find was so damp that it would not burn, notwithstanding that they burned all their camera films and note-books in an effort to ignite it.

On Saturday morning one of the four at the rest house started down the mountain for aid, but before this arrived the fog lifted and the lost men made their way to camp.

News of the pillik had in the meantime reached Central Maui and search parties were being organized when news of their return was received. The party returned to Honolulu last Saturday evening.

The sale by Hugh Howell, as commissioner of property in the case of A. Pomba et al., vs. W. A. McKay, et al., was yesterday confirmed by the court.

Because she showed the court that her husband, D. K. Wallehua had failed to provide for her, Judge Burr this week granted a divorce to Flora Wallehua. The parties live at Hana, where they are well known.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS DEFEATED IN BERLIN

Savage Street Fighting For Weeks Brings Victory To Government---Argentina Now Scene Of Strife Due To General Strike---Roosevelt Left Fortune In Trust For Wife---Plans For Peace Conference Being Perfected---Date For Opening Draws Near

ARGENTINE STRIKE TO BE GENERAL

(By The Associated Press)
BUENOS AIRES, January 10—A general strike throughout the republic was declared on Thursday at midnight.

BRITISH PEACE DELEGATES NAMED

(By The Associated Press)
LONDON, January 10—Lloyd George, Bonar Law, and George Nicoll Barnes to be the plenipotentiary part of the peace congress from British cabinet, according to the Express-Mail. Hughes, premier of Australia, Borden, premier of Canada, and Botha, premier of South Africa. The Colonial representatives and delegates to go to Paris on Saturday to attend sittings.

SPECIAL DELEGATES ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS

(By The Associated Press)
PARIS, January 10—There will probably be 80 delegates to the peace congress. If plans of the French government are approved by the supreme council there will be extra-delegates, most nations to be represented, these to be called as experts when special subjects are to be considered.

BIG BUNCH LIBERTY BONDS MISSING

(By The Associated Press)
CHICAGO, January 10—Twenty-five \$10,000 Liberty bonds have mysteriously disappeared after special postal delivery to the Studebaker corporation at South Bend, Ind. The postmaster has the package receipt but the company claims it has not been received.

SPARTACUS GROUP LOSES HOPE

(By The Associated Press)
BERLIN, January 10—Government forces are in complete control of the section of the inner city from the Brandenburg gates yesterday to Friedrichstrasse. The Spartacus forces are apparently losing hope. They failed to summon a mass meeting today, and the streets are almost deserted.

C. C. KENNEDY, OF HILO DEAD

(By The Associated Press)
HONOLULU, January 10—Charles C. Kennedy, former manager of the Waiakaa Mill, Co., and brother of J. A. Kennedy, president of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co., died at Hilo yesterday.

ROOSEVELT LEFT HALF MILLION ESTATE TO WIFE

(By The Associated Press)
OYSTER BAY, January 10—Theodore Roosevelt's estate is worth half a million. His will leaves it all in trust for his wife during her lifetime.

MANY KILLED IN BIG ARGENTINA STRIKE

(By The Associated Press)
BUENOS AIRES, January 10—Over 100 were killed and wounded during clash between striking steel workers and government troops. The situation is grave.

KUHIO LEAVES NEXT WEEK—PERHAPS

(By The Associated Press)
HONOLULU, January 9—Delegate Kuhio will leave for Washington next week by the Venture if his doctor will permit.

MRS. KUNAWA LOSES PARKE ESTATE

(By The Associated Press)
HONOLULU, January 9—Mrs. Fanny Leleo Kunewa's claim to the estate of the late William C. Parke, whose common-law wife she claimed to be, has been denied by Judge Ashford who denied all the claims set up by Mrs. Kunewa.

BERNSTORFF'S NEPHEW GETS JAIL SENTENCE

(By The Associated Press)
SAN FRANCISCO, January 9—Baron Albert von Dermulch, nephew of Bernstorff, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the San Francisco county jail for forging a passport.

ULTIMATUM MADE TO TURKEY

(By The Associated Press)
LONDON, January 9—The Allies have notified Turkey that unless the troops at Medina lay down their arms at once the forts of the Dardanelles will be destroyed.

SPARTACIDES DEFEATED IN BERLIN

(By The Associated Press)
COPENHAGEN, January 9—Government troops have occupied all the public buildings in Berlin, and thousands more are entering the capital, says a Berlin correspondent to the Gike Tidends. The Spartacus forces were beaten, and the situation is more quiet today, though bloody fighting still continues at the Anhalt railway station.

BIG STRIKE FIGHT ON IN ARGENTINA

(By The Associated Press)
BUENOS AIRES, January 9—A battle began this afternoon between strikers and government troops. 20,000 strikers surrounded the Varena foundry and attempted to force strike-breakers to quit work. Mounted police were rushed in to escort the workers to safety.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Residence Property Brings Good Price

Nine Wailuku Lots Sold At Commissioner's Sale Bring Total Of \$7955—Nearly \$2300 Per Acre Or 6 Cents Square Foot

Some idea of the value of Wailuku real estate may be gained from the commissioner's sale last Saturday of 9 small parcels of land on Vineyard street, aggregating a trifle over 3½ acres, which brought a total of \$7955, an average of about \$2280 per acre, or between 5 and 6 cents per square foot.

The sale was made by order of court to partition the property, the petitioners being Antone Pomba and Joe Sylva, and the respondents W. A. McKay, Apia Lilia Kokua and Thomas Kokua, her husband. Hugh Howell, as commissioner of the court, made the sales.

The purchases were as follows:

1 .522 acre	\$1350	W. A. McKay
2 .932 "	1700	E. Murphy
3 .796 "	3100	A. Pomba
4 .165 "	355 "	"
5 .134 "	290 "	"
6 .156 "	250 "	"
7 .387 "	450 "	"
8 .295 "	300 "	"
9 .175 "	250 "	"

3.532 " \$7955
The property had been estimated as worth \$8000, and the result of the sale is considered satisfactory.

Semi-Finals Played In Rain And Dark

Eddie Tam And Mrs. Paris Win Place In Finals For H.P. Baldwin Tennis Cup—Tournament Has Been Keen—Play Tomorrow

Eddie Tam and Mrs. J. R. Paris, defeated D. C. Lindsay and Mrs. Ed. Delbert last Friday afternoon in the first game of the semi-finals in the H. P. Baldwin Cup tennis tournament now being played on the Puunene Club courts. The game was one of much interest to all Maui players, and it was also a hard fought one throughout, the last set being played in a downpour of rain and in semi-darkness. The score stood 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

The other semi-final game will be played tomorrow afternoon between J. MacLaren and Miss Webb and W. A. Baldwin and Miss Nix. The finals will not be played for some weeks as Mrs. Paris leaves tomorrow for a short visit to the Coast and the finish must await until her return the latter part of February.

The tournament has been of much interest from the start, and grows steadily more exciting as the end approaches. The results thus far have been as follows:

Preliminary round—A. C. Bowdish and Miss H. Stanley beat C. C. Campbell and Mrs. J. H. Kunewa, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.

(Continued on Page Eight.)